



THE GREEN SCENE

Endangered Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly Released at Deane Dana Friendship Community Park

Deane Dana Friendship Park (DDFP) hosted the release of adult endangered Palos Verdes Blue Butterflies on Saturday, March 6, 2010. The butterflies were reintroduced to their historic coastal sage scrub habitat.

Parks and Recreation Director Russ Guiney served as master of ceremonies for the event, which took place on the lower-lawn, adjacent to the DDFP Nature enter, over-looking the beautiful panoramic view of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Opening the program with the Pledge of Allegiance was the Webelos Den Pack 500, Pacifica District Boyscout Troop.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe was the keynote speaker and presented a certificate of recognition to all of the partners involved. The other speakers included Dr. Jana Johnson from The Urban Wildlands Group/Moorpark College: The Butterfly Project and Dr. Eric Porter, from the Carlsbad office of the United States Fish and Wildlife Services. Mr. Christopher Wilson, Field Representative for the 54th District California State Assemblyperson Bonnie Lowenthal also presented a certificate of recognition.



A newly released Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly gets acquainted with its natural habitat.

Dr. Jana Johnson, lead biologist on the release, discussed the thumb-nailed sized, beautifully iridescent blue butterfly species' breeding habits, population growth, and the logistics of the release. Dr. Eric Porter, also a biologist, discussed the collaboration and creation of the 30-year, Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA), between Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, Planning Division and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which was implemented in January of 2010. This agreement ensures a restoration of a minimum of 8 acres of habitat with potential conservation efforts connecting most remnant patches of native vegetation in the Deane Dana Friendship Community Regional Park for the federally endangered Palos Verdes blue butterfly. This is the only SHA for the butterfly.

(continued on page 5)

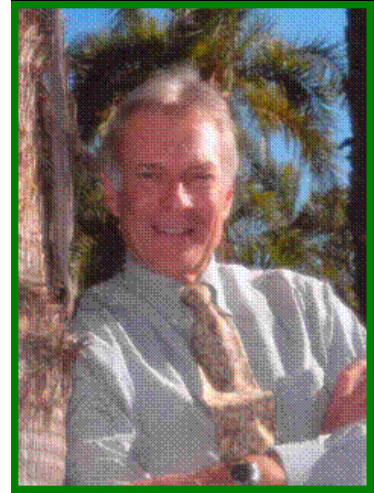
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Greetings from the Director

A lot of great things have been happening in our Department and it's only April!

In March, **Deane Dana/Friendship Park** was the site of a momentous and historic occasion when we released 80 adult endangered Palos Verdes Blue Butterflies into their restored native habitat. This is an example of what stalwart environmentalism and valuable partnerships can accomplish. We could not have been so successful in our endeavors to assist in the rehabilitation of the Blue Butterfly without our dedicated partners: The Urban Wildlands Group/Moorpark College, United States Fish and Wildlife Services, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, and of course Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, who has made environmentalism and parks a priority. March also saw the dedication of not one, but two, fitness zones in two of our parks. These new amenities at **El Cariso Park** and at **Cerritos Park** were made possible by a grant from the Trust for Public Land with additional contributions by MetLife Foundation and support from Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and Supervisor Don Knabe. Our park patrons at these two locations now have outdoor workout equipment in beautiful locations to help them continue on their way to healthy living!



Russ Guiney, Director

I hope you have a chance to visit each of these locations with your families and see for yourselves how great partnerships can positively impact change.

2010 Census Update



IT'S IN OUR HANDS
You Count!
census.lacounty.gov

United States
**Census
2010**

YOU COUNT! The Los Angeles County Supervisors are counting on you to complete your 2010 Census questionnaire. It's easy, it's safe and it's important to make sure our

County communities get their fair share of funding. It takes just 10 minutes to answer 10 questions – and it will impact our future for the next 10 years! Be counted!

The Census Bureau will send out the questionnaires in March 2010 to be returned in April 2010. Call the phone numbers below to request questionnaires.

ENGLISH:	1-866-872-6868
SPANISH:	1-866-928-2010
CHINESE:	1-866-935-2010
KOREAN:	1-866-955-2010
VIETNAMESE:	1-866-945-2010
RUSSIAN:	1-866-965-2010

Rotary Clubs of L.A. County Present New Van to Anti-Gang Violence Group

On Friday, February 19, 2010, Rotary District 5280 which represents Rotary Clubs in southwestern Los Angeles County presented a new 10-passenger van to Common Unity Affecting Everyone (C.U.R.E.), a non-profit partner of the Department of Parks and Recreation that works to reduce gang violence and assists in providing programming and events at Helen Keller

Park, including the Annual Christmas Party, Movies in the Park and athletic programs.

Through the use of the van C.U.R.E. will be able to provide a safe passage for Helen Keller Park youth from school to the park. The van will allow C.U.R.E. to transport youth safely to field trips to and from the C.U.R.E. headquarters in Gardena, allowing youth to avoid unsafe encounters with gangs around their school and in their neighborhoods.

Members of the Department of Parks and Recreation, C.U.R.E., Rotary District 5280 and community youth stand in front of new van.



Members of the Department of Parks and Recreation, C.U.R.E., Rotary District 5280 and community youth.



This new relationship between Rotary District 5280 and C.U.R.E. was encouraged by our Director Russ Guiney who is a member of the Los Angeles Rotary Club. Rotary is an international service organization that seeks to foster peace and good relations among all people. Mr. Guiney noted that "The donation of this van will assist C.U.R.E and ultimately benefit both Helen Keller Park and the surrounding community."

Jim Park and Friends of Acton Park Honored by CPRS

Friends of Acton Park

In the small, high desert community of Acton, the Friends of Acton Park have raised thousands of dollars and contributed thousands of hours to provide park enhancements and programs to the local residents. In doing so, they have fostered pride in the community, a newfound attitude of accomplishment and an abiding sense of belonging. For these achievements, they have been recognized with the 2009 CPRS (California Parks and Recreation Society) Champion of the Community" Award.

Congrats to Jim Park!

Deputy Director for Special Projects Jim Park received the prestigious CPRS Pat O'Brien Professional Legislative Award bestowed by



L-R: Chief Deputy Director John Wicker, Deputy Director Jim Park & Director Russ Guiney



Director Russ Guiney, Chief Deputy Director John Wicker, Regional Operations Manager Roy Williams and members of the Friends of Acton Park.

CPRS to professionals who provide on-going support and work in legislative activities. According to CPRS, Jim received the award for his continuous dedication, support and activities in that respect for many years. Jim is well-respected in his field as a legislative professional. "It's an honor to follow in the legacy of past honorees, many of whom have made enormous contributions to the legislative platform," said Jim.

El Cariso Park Fitness Zone Dedication



L-R: Director Russ Guiney, Park volunteer Alina Mendizibal, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Trust for Public Land CA Director Sam Hodder and Park Commissioner Raymond Ojeda dedicate the El Cariso Fitness Zone.

On a sunny March morning, fitness buffs, local Sylmar residents and park patrons curious about the colorful new machines in El Cariso Community Regional Park joined Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Director Russ Guiney and the department in the dedication of the new Fitness Zone – an outdoor exercise area comprised of nine highly durable, easy-to-use exercise machines. In his welcoming remarks, Director Russ Guiney said, “We could not have found a better time to install Fitness Zones in our parks, because exercise is a major component in combating obesity and preventing health problems such as diabetes, heart disease and strokes.”

Obesity and obesity-related diseases have now reached near-epidemic levels in the U.S.

With the snip of a bright red ribbon and the combined resources of the

Trust for Public Land, MetLife Foundation and the Board of Supervisors, this Fitness Zone became the 21st such installation in our County parks. Park patrons and department employees alike enthusiastically lined up to try out the colorful equipment, each designed to target a particular fitness goal, such as developing upper-body strength or improving the cardio-vascular system. Bilingual signs were installed to demonstrate correct usage of the equipment, and six of the machines can accommodate two people at once, which encourages use by friends and fitness partners.



Park goers try out the new fitness zone.

Cerritos Park Fitness Zone Dedication



Director Russ Guiney, City of Cerritos and L.A. County supporters join Supervisor Don Knabe in dedicating the new Cerritos Park fitness zone.

On Monday, March 1, 2010, Director Russ Guiney was joined by Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe to dedicate a new Cerritos Park fitness zone. A host of Cerritos City Officials and eager community residents were present to celebrate the special occasion. Dozens of residents have been actively utilizing the nine piece equipment, including a 91 year-old War Veteran. There are four Fitness Zones in this particular district including Carolyn Rosas Park, Pathfinder Park and Steinmetz Park and are 22 throughout the County of Los Angeles.

These Fitness Zones required approximately \$55,000 to complete. The funds were generously provided by L.A. County's Regional Park and

Open Space District, a grant from the Trust for Public Land and a donation from the UniHealth Foundation. The equipment is designed for park patrons ages 14 and older and includes nine different stationary exercise equipment including a bicycle, leg lifts, pull-up bars, dual pendulum, leg press and arm machines. This new equipment will provide moderate to high impact resistance exercises, and contribute to the overall improvement of physical health for the community free of charge.



Park goers try out the new fitness zone.

Angel Baltazar Recognized at the Board of Supervisor's Meeting

As a result of the heroic actions of Cerritos Park Recreation Supervisor Angel Baltazar, Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe honored this two-time hero on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 during the Board of Supervisor's meeting. Along with nine other citizens, on the evening of January 5, 2010, Angel helped save the life of a woman trapped in a burning car following a major traffic collision near Cerritos Regional Park. During the presentation, Supervisor Knabe presented Angel with a board certificate designed with a special "Superwoman" drawn on the front. Angel was praised for her courage and quick thinking that day. She was described as a leader and someone who was not afraid to put others before her own safety.

Angel has been a Los Angeles County employee for 15 years and a Supervisor at Cerritos Regional Park since September 2007. In 2006, Angel was credited for saving the life of an individual after witnessing a severe car accident on the 5 freeway.



L-R: Director Russ Guiney, Angel Baltazar and Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe.

Blue Butterfly (Continued)

Attendees included Erin Stibal and Mike Gin, both Deputies for Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe; Travis Longcore, Science Director for The Urban Wildlands Group; Stephanie Weagley, Public Affairs Officer for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Andrea Vona, Director of Science Programs and Lily Verdone, Conservation Director for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy; Joan Rupert, Environmental/Regulatory Permitting for the DPR Planning Division; Doris Dana, widow of Former LA County 4th District Supervisor Deane Dana; LA County 4th District Park Commissioner, Michael Popovec; Hayden Sohm, Regional Facilities Agency, Deputy Director; Kimel Conway, Regional Operations Manager; Natural Areas Administrator and Park Superintendent, Mickey Long and Kim Bosell, Deane Dana Park Superintendent.



Blue Butterfly supporters witness the release of 80 endangered butterflies into their native habitat.

After the ceremony, Director Russ Guiney led everyone to board two DDFP buses to the release site where Supervisor Knabe and Ms. Doris Dana along with Dr. Jana Johnson and her students, initiate the actual releases among numerous sites all along the Coastal Sage Scrub Habitat, making for a historic and memorable event for everyone.

HIGH FIVE!

For Those Who Go Above and Beyond...

You have an awesome golf club and thanks again for all your hard work. I'm glad I joined.

Milik Basurto
La Verne, CA

Thank you so much for having the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation Junior Golf Program. I have paid for several expensive camps but this camp was by far the best, and it was "free."

My boys really enjoyed it. They now are wanting to go to the driving range to hit a bucket! It has taught them patience and respect. We hope to play a round of golf soon!

Tami Chase
Chatsworth, CA

My son participated in the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation Junior Golf Program at Lakewood Country Club. I am writing to express my deep appreciation for offering such a quality program. It is rare indeed that such a worthwhile experience would be offered at no charge.

From check-in on day one, to the putting contest on the last day, we were greeted warmly. The staff were well organized and the instruction was excellent. Last Saturday our family went to the driving range and my son was giving us pointers on how to improve our grip!

Rebecca Urwin
Lakewood, CA

I am writing to thank you for the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation Junior Golf Program. This program gives the old saying "the best things in life are free" a new meaning.

My son participated in three weeks of the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation Junior Golf Program. The Program Director, Mike McMonegal puts his heart into this organization which is what makes this program such a huge success, and it is obvious that this is much more than a job to Mike. His team of coaches are the best! In addition to being good golfers themselves, these coaches are patient, enthusiastic, and they make the class fun. They give the children attending the program something to aspire to be, and because of them my son has found a true love for the game of golf.

Thank you very much for supporting such a wonderful program with top-notch staff.

Jana Shepard
Torrance, CA

GIVE Someone a HIGH FIVE!

Do you know someone in our Department who deserves special recognition? Maybe you were on a tight deadline and that person helped you meet it. Maybe you were having a tough work day and that person helped you beat it. You know who those people are, the ones who go above and beyond. Help us recognize them. Email their name and a short paragraph of why they deserve a High Five! to iperius@parks.lacounty.gov and we'll do our best to include them in the High Five! column of The Green Scene.



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